

The Examiner stated as follows:

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because:

Inventions I and II are related as process and apparatus for its practice. The inventions are distinct if it can be shown that either: (1) the process as claimed can be practiced by another and materially different apparatus or by hand, or (2) the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(e)). In this case, the apparatus could be employed in another, materially different processes, such as the transfer of entirely liquid metals, such as molten aluminum or steel.

Because these inventions are independent or distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicants elect Group I, claims 1-30, drawn to a transfer mechanism for transferring liquids, classified in class 266, subclass 236 without traverse.

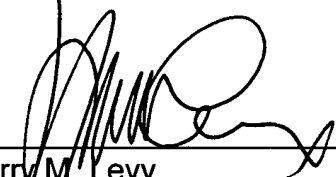
The Examiner has also requested an election of a species or invention to be examined including the identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

Applicants elect claims 1-5, 7-11, 13-19, 21, and 23-30 comprising a cylindrical housing, with traverse.

The Examiner has provided no reason why mechanisms which transfer slurries between vessels by concentrating the particulates to form a seal cannot be searched together.

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Respectfully submitted,
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